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THIRD PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION UGANDA-RWANDA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of paragraphs 2 and 3 of Security Council resolution 928 (1994) of 20 June 1994, in which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) for a final period of three months until 21 September 1994 and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the termination of the operation before the completion of its mandate. The present report covers the period since my last report to the Security Council on UNOMUR, dated 16 June 1994 (S/1994/715).

2. It will be recalled that UNOMUR was established by the Security Council in its resolution 846 (1993) of 22 June 1993, with the mandate to deploy on the Ugandan side of the border with Rwanda and to verify that no military assistance reached Rwanda. The Council decided that the monitoring activities of UNOMUR would focus primarily on transit or transport, by roads or tracks that could accommodate vehicles, of lethal weapons and ammunition across the border, as well as any other material that could be of military use.

II. DEPLOYMENT AND ACTIVITIES

3. As indicated in my previous report (S/1994/715), the breakdown of the cease-fire and the resumption of the civil war in Rwanda after 6 April 1994 compelled UNOMUR to expand its monitoring activities in Uganda from the areas controlled by the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) to the entire border area between the two countries. Despite the Mission's phased reduction plan, set out in paragraph 9 of the present report, the expanded monitoring of the 170-kilometre border area continued during the period under review.

4. UNOMUR has implemented its tasks essentially through patrolling, monitoring and surveillance of the whole stretch of the operational area, involving both mobile and fixed observations, as well as on-site investigation of suspected cross-border traffic. Those tasks also included random aerial surveillance and patrols by helicopters, as well as the airlifting of military observers into areas of high elevation for observation of routes leading to the border.

5. Since my last report, the situation of cross-border traffic from Uganda into Rwanda has remained unchanged and no significant movements of armaments or armed personnel have been detected by UNOMUR.

6. In addition to its border-monitoring activities, UNOMUR has more recently played an important role in supporting the build-up of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) and coordinating humanitarian activities in support of the displaced persons and other civilians affected by the hostilities in Rwanda. That role was performed at a critical time when the resumed fighting in Rwanda made the use of Kigali airport difficult and, at a later stage, impossible. UNOMUR activities in that respect have continued even after the unilateral declaration of a cease-fire by RPF on 18 July in order to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population in Rwanda.

7. Following the adoption on 17 May by the Security Council of its resolution 918 (1994), in which it authorized the expansion of the UNAMIR force level to 5,500 all ranks, the Mission became a forward base to back up the movement of personnel, equipment and supplies into Rwanda. During the closure of Kigali airport, Entebbe airport in Uganda functioned as the only air base from which those personnel and supplies were routed by land to Rwanda. A team of UNOMUR military observers was stationed at Entebbe to coordinate logistic activities. UNOMUR escorted 60 armoured personnel carriers as well as convoys with logistic material and foodstuffs from Entebbe to the Uganda-Rwanda border for use by UNAMIR. A temporary transit camp with the capacity of accommodating at least 100 troops was established at the Mirama Hills checkpoint to ensure smooth entry of newly arriving UNAMIR troops into Rwanda.

8. The evacuation of UNAMIR casualties was carried out with UNOMUR assistance. UNOMUR also made a total of 117 helicopter sorties between Kabale and Entebbe during the period under review, as well as between Kabale and the Zairian towns of Goma and Bukavu, in order to transport UNAMIR and other United Nations personnel.

9. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 928 (1994), I have started implementing the following plan to reduce the size of UNOMUR in four phases, with its monitoring activities being scaled down gradually. The first three of the four phases have already been carried out.

10. Phase I of the reduction took effect on 15 August and the Mission's total strength of 80 military observers was reduced by 25. Accordingly, the Sector West headquarters and the observation posts at Lubirizi and Kafunzo were closed down. In Phase II, effective from 30 August, the Mission was further reduced by nine military observers.

11. In Phase III, effective from 6 September, an additional 12 military observers left the Mission, leaving a total strength of 34 military observers. The Sector East headquarters was closed during that period and the UNOMUR team stationed at Entebbe was withdrawn. As at 12 September 1994, in addition to the remaining military observers, the Mission also included 11 international civilian and 7 locally recruited staff, who are being phased out. In the final phase of reduction, which is to be completed at the end of the Mission's mandate on 21 September, all the remaining military observers will leave the area of

operation. UNOMUR will be officially closed down on that date in a small ceremony to be presided over by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Mr. Kofi Annan, who will be in the region at that time.

III. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

12. As indicated in my report on the financing of UNAMIR (A/48/837 and Corr.1), the administrative costs related to the military observers and civilian personnel of UNOMUR, with effect from 22 December 1993, are included in the cost estimates for the maintenance of UNAMIR. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/248 of 5 April 1994, authorized me to enter into commitments at a monthly rate not to exceed $9,082,600 gross per month for the period from 5 April to 31 October 1994, for the maintenance of both operations.

IV. OBSERVATIONS

13. UNOMUR was established in June 1993 to help create an atmosphere conducive to a negotiated settlement of the Rwandese conflict. While the tragic turn of events in Rwanda prevented UNOMUR from contributing to that goal, the Observer Mission did play a useful role as a confidence-building mechanism in the months following the conclusion on 4 August 1993 of the Arusha peace agreement and during UNAMIR's initial efforts to defuse tensions between the Rwandese parties and to facilitate the implementation of that agreement. Following the resumption of the civil war in Rwanda, UNOMUR also played an important role in support of the deployment of the expanded UNAMIR and of the coordination of humanitarian relief activities in that country.

14. In conclusion, I would like to express again my appreciation to the Government of Uganda for the cooperation and assistance it has extended to UNOMUR. I also wish to commend both the military and the civilian personnel of UNOMUR for the dedication and professionalism with which they have carried out their tasks.